

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council Finance Committee held on Monday 15th February 2021 by video conference facility.

Present: Councillors: A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, S Nock and Dr R Morgan.
In attendance: the clerk. 0 members of the public.

51/21 Apologies. None Received.

52/21 Declarations of interest. None. **53/21 Dispensations.** None requested.

54/21 Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 18th January 2021 were approved by the Committee.

55/21 Bank reconciliation.

The Committee noted that the monthly operational bank account and 'Quick books' reconciliation had been carried out by Cllr. Mabbett, which he had confirmed by an e mail to the clerk for Council records. Cllr. Morgan would carry out the reconciliation procedures for the month ending 28th February 2021.

56/21 Accounts for Payment.

The clerk had previously circulated for perusal the list of items for payment in February totalling £3,028.41. The Committee noted and authorised the payments instructing the clerk to make the electronic payments.

57/21 Lighting upgrades.

- a. The Committee noted, following prior Council approval, the instructions now held with W.C.C. for Health and Safety lighting column replacements along with a phase one of 'l.e.d.' lantern conversions. The work would commence in approximately 10 weeks.
- b. The Committee recommended that further works to replace aged wooden brackets and the remaining conversions to 'l.e.d.' lanterns should be carried out. W.C.C. had given an indicative cost of £17,900 and the Committee would seek a firmed-up price to include the disposal of asbestos which was not included in the indicative pricing.
The Committee recommended that the costs of this further work be met initially from reserves (during the next financial year) but at the budget setting in December 2021 for the financial year 2022/23 a recommendation would be made as to what amount should be funded from the Precept and over what term.

58/21 Broadband – 'Fibre to the Premises'.

The Committee agreed in principle that funding should be made available to assist with the communication strategy to ensure that both residents and business owners are aware of the opportunity to register an expression of interest in the Parish Council's 'Community Lead' scheme. Initially a digital communication strategy was envisaged which was expected to have 'minimal cost'.
Action: Cllr. Morgan to contact existing local 'Community Lead's' regarding communication processes and to feed best practice into the strategy.

59/21 Grants.

The Committee approved the 2021/22 Grant application process for Capital and Minor Grants. This was unchanged from the 2020/21 criteria. The budget is £5,000 and £1,000, respectively. The annual Maintenance Grants would follow the already budgeted amounts and beneficiaries.
Action: the clerk would load the Grant application forms onto the website.

18.

60/21 Maintenance Work.

No items.

61/21 Other Finance Business.

Cllr. Ingram requested an update on the Fairfield Villa F.C.'s request for a rent freeze.

The clerk advised that some information had been received but more detail was needed, and it was hoped that this would be available for the full Council meeting in March which was when the matter was due to be considered further.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

To be agreed as a true record by a future Committee Meeting minute.